

Country Journal

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WESTHAMPTON

Voters pass pollinator resolution

By Peter Spotts

The resolution declaring the town a pollinator-friendly community, a process beginning at last year’s Annual Town Meeting, came to fruition on Saturday, May 8, as Annual Town Meeting voters accepted an updated resolution from the Pollinator Advisory Committee.

The committee worked on the resolution for the past year to bring a new version before voters, which incorporated feedback all stakeholders including the Highway Department, landscapers, and farmers.

“We wanted to make it something simple to pass, something people would want to support,” said Committee member Chris Wayne. “We thought it would be important.”

The resolution declares pollinators a vital part of the ecosystem and resolves to support pollinators through adoptions of practices and policies to support their health under federal and state protection plans.

“We already have to follow this plan,” Wayne said. “We’re just acknowledging [the plan] that that is a well formatted plan.”

This resolution isn’t telling us what we can’t do; it’s telling us what we should do,”



The Selectboard and Finance Committee answer questions from residents during Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 8, behind the Westhampton Elementary School. Photos by Peter Spotts



Residents vote on one of 26 articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

RESOLUTION, page 12

BLANDFORD

Board of Health recommends Town Hall open

By Mary Kronholm

The Select Board had a COVID-19 update from the Board of Health at Monday, May 10 meeting.

The Hilltown Community Health Center is offering COVID-19 vaccines to all residents of Blandford, Chester, Russell, Granville, Tolland, Goshen, Chesterfield, Plainfield and Middlefield. For more information, contact the health center at 413-667-3009.

Beginning this week, indoor capacity has increased to 25 percent from ten percent with additional increase to indoor capacity to 200 people on May 29.

The BOH recommended that the town office building be opened on May 29.

This increase to 200 will be ample for the informational budget hearing by the Finance Committee on Monday, June 7, at the Town Offices as well as the Monday, June 21, Annual

Town Meeting.

All the detailed information for physical partitions, marking six-foot social distancing, additional signage, hand sanitizer availability and more, is on the town website at townof-blandford.com.

Gov. Charlie Baker has issued the order mandating mask-wearing at all times; indoor in public places as well as outdoors when social distancing is not assured.

The town’s Memorial

Day picnic can be held and the BOH asked that proper paperwork be completed detailing the event.

Continuing the appointment process for town positions, the board appointed Sonja Hutchins as Zoning Board of Appeals alternate Jennifer Girard as Deputy Election Warden, Charles Benson and Joann Martin to the Recreation Committee, Aaron Poteat as Plumbing

OPEN, page 6

BECKET

Brake petition voted down

By Shelby Macri

Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 8, opened with the reading of the obituary for former Moderator Bruce Garlow.

Current Town Moderator Ethan Klepetar read the obituary and asked for a moment of silence as Garlow was his mentor and friend; after a moment of silence Klepetar began the meeting and kept residents focused on agenda items. The citizen petition for an engine brake bylaw drew the most discussion.

PETITION, page 11

WILLIAMSBURG

Committee formed for complex build

By Peter Spotts

The next step of the Public Safety Complex is the finishing of the design and construction phase and the Selectboard appointed the committee to oversee that process on Thursday, May 6.

The Public Safety Building Complex will have nine members made up of members from the Owner’s Project Manager Steering Committee, Selectmen, and residents. Selectboard Chair Bill Sayre presented a list of candidates who were willing to join the committee.

COMMITTEE, page 3

CHESTER

Board meetings return to hybrid

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard started the month tackling several issues including the energy efficiency concerns at the Highway Garage, Memorial Day events, and making meetings hybrid.

During the discussion on solar power on Town Buildings, Highway Foreman Carl Baldasaro informed the board the Highway Garage isn’t receiving as much electricity from their solar

BOARD, page 7



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HILLTOWNS

VOICES OF SUPPORT



Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni and his team shares their messages for survivors of domestic violence as part of the Southern Hilltowns Domestic Violence Task Force's Hilltown Voice's campaign to raise awareness to prevent and end domestic violence. Hilltown Safety at Home domestic violence advocacy services can be reached at 413-667-2203 or 413-693-9977. Ten to Ten Helpline for people at risk of harming their partner or for those worried someone they know is harming their partner can be reached at 877-898-3411.

Submitted photo

RMV cautions customers about scam

Agency does not send text messages to customers

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles is cautioning customers to be aware of a text phishing scam that has been reported here in the commonwealth and in other states. The scam reportedly involves customers receiving text messages, claiming to be from the “DMV,” which direct them to click on a provided link to update their personal identifying contact information. Customers can identify this type of text as a phishing scam because it includes “DMV” and in Massachusetts DMV is

not the name of the Registry of Motor Vehicles; in Massachusetts, the name of the Registry is abbreviated as “RMV.” Any text using the phrase “Department of Motor Vehicles” or “DMV” should be deleted.

Please note that the RMV does not send unsolicited requests for personal and/or contact information to customers by text. Any communication by text from the RMV would be as a result of a customer-initiated request or transaction.

For the latest Registry updates and information, please check Mass.gov/RMV or follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

Health center opens COVID-19 vaccinations to 18 and older

Hilltown Community Health Center is now offering COVID-19 vaccinations for all of its patients at sites in Huntington, ages 18 and older. Anyone who receives services from HCHC is eligible, which includes patients of the medical, dental, behavioral health, optometry, or Community Center programs.

In addition, HCHC is now offering vaccinations to all residents of Huntington, Chester, and Middlefield. As the clinic's capacity allows, and on a rolling basis, eligibility will open to other hilltown communities' residents. HCHC will use Massachusetts Department of Public Health data on towns' vaccination rates to ensure that the schedule of eligi-

ble communities is based on need.

“We want to make sure that those people who have faced barriers in accessing a vaccination can get the shot,” said Eliza Lake, HCHC’s Chief Executive Officer. “We know that many people want to receive their vaccination as close to home as possible, and we are working hard to make that happen.”

In future weeks and months, HCHC will be conducting extensive outreach to Hilltown residents to identify and contact those who need more information about the vaccine or help accessing a vaccination clinic.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment for a vaccination, please call 413-667-3009, ext. 261.

Virtual optimism walk to raise funds to fight Parkinson's Disease

The American Parkinson's Disease Association, Massachusetts Chapter, is hosting the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk on Saturday, May 22.

One of three virtual Optimism Walks happening on the same day, the Massachusetts Walk is part of a nationwide series of Optimism Walks that mobilize and inspire people to step up and help put an end to Parkinson's disease. There are approximately 1 million people living with the disease in the United States, and with more being diagnosed every day, it is more important than ever to raise essential funds and awareness.

Each and every virtual participant will help make a difference for those living with the disease today and to push for answers that will ultimately make Parkinson's Disease a thing of the past.

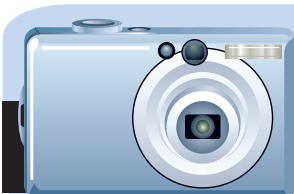
Participants in the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk

will join fellow walkers from Optimism Walks taking place in the Northwest region and Virginia. After an inspiring online opening ceremony and celebration, participants in all three virtual events will walk separately, but together in solidarity.

Due to social distancing, participants will be encouraged to walk safely on their own and share photos and comments using #OptimismWalk, so they can still be uplifted and united by a great sense of community and camaraderie.

To learn more and register for the APDA Massachusetts Virtual Optimism Walk, visit www.apdaparkinson.org/community/massachusetts/ or call 800-651-8466.

For a full list of events and dates, including in-person walks taking place in the fall, visit the Optimism Walk section of the APDA website, at www.apdaparkinson.org.



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HUNTINGTON

MVP grant project potential draws board interest

By Peter Spotts

HUNTINGTON — The possibility of grant funding to address dirt roads and other potential town vulnerabilities through Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness is of interest to the Selectboard.

Berkshires & Hilltowns Regional Coordinator for the MVP program Carrienne Petrik met with the board last month to discuss the benefits of the town engaging in the two-part grant program.

“It’s an Opportunity for the town to come together and discuss what the burnabilities you experience to climate change and what are key actions to build more resiliency,” Petrik said.

The town would have to create a plan through a planning grant to identify areas of vulnerability then would be eligible for action grants to make solutions happen.

“I love grants. I love anything that doesn’t cost the town money,” Chairman

Ed Renauld said.

Highway Superintendent Chipper Dazelle said one difficulty the town may have is getting people involved to help make the process move forward. Petrik said some towns, like Chester, hire someone to help organize and manage the first stage.

“I think our biggest problem... is a lot of people want everything and then trying to get everyone together to explain we need a team is a hard part in the hilltowns,” Dazelle said. “That’d be one of our toughest projects, to get people involved in this type of stuff.”

“It’s really important to find these ways to be building up our strength as a community,” Petrik said. “What are the ways we can engage people in smaller towns? It’s a hard nut to crack.”

She added, “You work with a vendor who has been certified in community resilience process and invite various stakeholders from the community to come together and look...vulnerabilities Huntington experiences.”

MVP can cover a variety of issues including stormwater management, the impacts of people moving to rural communities, dirt roads, culverts, and more. Petrik told the board Chesterfield is currently part of a group looking at dirt roads, which have been an issue for the town maintenance wise.

“We’ve got tons of dirt roads...If we go through the planning and we get to the action grant, what can an action grant do for the roads?” Renauld asked. “Can we have dirt roads repaired, paved, or whatever through this grant?”

Petrik noted paving dirt roads sometimes makes people uncomfortable. The grant can fund a dirt road study to examine all the dirt roads in town, determine which are the most vulnerable and have high criticality, and look for a nature-based solution, which may include paving if that’s what the people want. She told the board she can send them a copy of the report so they can see the different solutions for dirt roads it proposed.

“I don’t know if paving it would be a strong MVP application. This report has a whole different bunch of ideas,” she said.

Dazelle also noted any help with culverts would be apricated as it’s typically a project small towns can’t fund on their own.

“I have several of them I just don’t have the money to tackle or time do it. This would be interesting to see if it could help me out,” he said.

“The big challenge is we only have \$10 million dollars,” Petrik said. “What I have learned recently...culvert replacement easily cost over \$600,000. They are not cheap.”

Petrik will send the board the application and more information for them to look at.

“If we can get money and fix some stuff up and make our town more environmentally friendly...then I’m all for it. I think it doesn’t hurt to apply for this planning grant and go from there,” Renauld said.

NORWICH HILL

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The pastor is always available to

speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

WILLIAMSBURG

COMMITTEE

from page 1

“I talked to quite a few people and this is the list of names of people that said yes,” Sayre said.

The list included OPMSC member Jim Ayres, Daniel Bonham, and Jean O’Neil; Fire Chief Jason Connell and Police Chief Denise Wickland; Selectmen Dave Mathers and Sayre; Deputy Fire Chief Daryl Springman; Engineer Amy Bisbee.

Selectman Denise Banister expressed her concern about the committee possibly lacking dedicated building experience.

“I just want to make sure our bases are covered. I just keep going back to the Dunphy school and we had people, but it still didn’t work out well,” she said.

Sayre said Bisbee has road engineering experience and Daniel Bonham is an architect, so there’s some experience on the committee.

Town Administrator Charlene Nardi said past mistakes made during the Dunphy School project have been emphasized to OPM P3 Project Planning Professionals, Inc.

“I really do think it’s not only the committee. I think our OPM fell down on the job and I think we really hammered that point home to Rob Todisco,” Nardi said. “We really hammered down we felt our OPM fell

down on the job last time and we’re expecting much better [this time].”

“If we found someone with construction experience, we could add to it. In the meantime, if we could get these people on there, we could get them up and running and keep things moving forward,” Sayre said.

The committee’s first meeting will be set for a date in the future by the project architect. The Helen E. James School will also need to come down before construction can begin. Nardi said the demolition is expected to take place in the fall. Current tenants in the building will need to be cleared out by July 1.

The board expressed the desire to hold an event or celebration of some kind before ethe demolition occurs. One idea is to potentially hold a picnic on the school grounds over the summer.

Town voters approved the \$5.1 million proposal to build a new Public Safety Complex and take down the Helen E. James School building in a two-vote process. The first vote was at a special town meeting and passed 259 to 48 on April 3; the second was a ballot vote which passed 358 to 187 on April 19. For more information about the project and the committees working on it, visit burgj.org.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

Seniors get class camping trip

By Peter Spotts

Last month, the Hampshire Regional School Committee concerns over a proposed senior camping trip to Cape Cod ended without a vote. The seniors are going to get their camping trip after all, but are staying closer to home to do it.

The class voted to take a trip to High Meadow Resort in Granby, Connecticut. Principal Kristen Smidy said the change in location, being two hours closer than the Cape trip, was beneficial for AP students who have tests right after the trip.

“The advisors were pretty quick on their feet and put together a trip that included high meadows and camping only 45 mins away,” Smidy said. “It just so happened to coincide with some AP exams. If the trip went to the cape, students with AP exams wouldn’t have been able to participate. Students can go home early and get sleep before exam.”

While they won’t be going to the beach on the Cape, High Meadows features of 100 acres of activities including a pool, volleyball, basketball, ballfields, mini golf, a horse corral, and more. Students will then camp in Granville overnight.

One of the concerns with the Cape trip was the bus ride being 2 hours and 45 minutes, above the recommendations from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to keep bus trips to

under two hours.

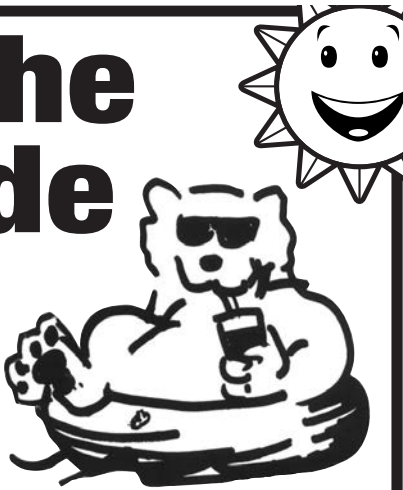
Smidy said the school committee ultimately approved both trips, and the decision between which to do was presented to the senior class for a 24-hour vote. Thirty-five students participated with 21 voting in favor of High Meadows.

The class considered the camping trip this year as Smidy said during the committee meeting on April 5 that classes have been looking for trips to get more of the senior class involved as past trips to Disney or Hershey park yielded lower numbers. Smidy said she expects to get a similar number of students attending the High Meadows trip as would’ve attended the Cape Cod trip, but keeping it closer to home has increased participation compared to trips that go out of state.

“I think it would’ve been the same amount. We’re able to accommodate more students,” she said.

School MCAS dates have been adjusted and will now take place in June. MCAS will start on June 3 for ninth grade biology testing; seventh, eighth, and tenth graders will take ELA MCAS on June 7; seventh and eighth graders have math on June 8 and tenth graders will have ELA; eighth grade has science on June 9 and tenth grade has math; tenth grade has its final ELA MCAS test on June 10.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

History Matters:
May 1 to May 15

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

On May 5, 1961, Navy Commander Alan Bartlett Shepard Jr. became the first American in space. It was just a 15-minute mission, memorable to the nation, but too late to outwit the competition. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gargarin astounded the world when he orbited the earth, once, in the Vistok 1.

Shepard’s Freedom 7 capsule, however, foreshadowed America’s dominance; less than a decade later, the Apollo 11 mission “silenced” the Russians, and catapulted Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, and Michael Collins to the moon.

Shepard was ranked fifth to walk the lunar surface after the Apollo 14 mission.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Light This Candle: The Life and Times of Alan Shepard,” by Neal Thompson.

Transcontinental railroads

The American Revolution was an unexpected victory for the colonists. They won an immense land with a myriad of perks and perils, but the only way to traverse its complex vastness was to join a wagon train. It was a complicated and difficult crossing that many did not survive.

Then, on May 10, 1869, everything changed; two railroads completed the task of laying the tracks from “sea to shining sea.” The presidents of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads met at Promontory, Utah to drive the last spike into the rails of the nation’s first transcontinental railway.

Seven years earlier, land grants and loans from Congress had equipped them with the fiscal flexibility to build, but according to History.com, “In their eagerness for land, the two lines built right past each other, and the final meeting place had to be renegotiated.”

To learn more about how the West was subdued, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad,” by Rhoda Blumberg.

Lewis and Clark

In order to determine what it would require to mollify a newly acquired, undomesticated expanse of land, President Jefferson determined that a survey was imperative; he selected two explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to manage the mission.

America was just over 21-years-old, but the Louisiana Purchase transaction suddenly added 828,000 acres, and the equivalent of approximately 15 states.

Lewis and Clark started their journey in St. Louis with 55 men on May 14, 1804.

According to History.com, “The expedition traveled up the Missouri River in a 55-foot-long keelboat and two smaller boats. In November, Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader accompanied by his young Native American wife, Sacagawea, joined the expedition as an interpreter. The group wintered in present-day North Dakota before crossing into present-day Montana, where they first saw the Rocky Mountains.

They met up with the Shoshone Indians when they reached Colorado, crossed the Clearwater and Snake rivers in canoes, and followed the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean on Nov. 8, 1805.

HISTORY, page 5

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GUEST COLUMN

Long awaited flowers for the wisteria

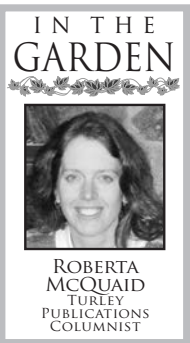
I was out shopping at one of the largest garden centers I have ever been to yesterday, and was tempted to buy a wisteria (along with a hundred other plants). My good friend is always talking about how pretty hers is and with an occasional picture sent my way, she is sure being modest. Her specimen is beyond pretty, more like gorgeous! I tried to remember back to the one we had growing at Old Sturbridge Village, long since gone now, but luckily I had written the following column, which gives some great advice for first-time wisteria owners, especially those who are waiting for theirs to bloom. Read on!

The wisteria was planted eight long years ago. Although the vines have overtaken the pergola beside which it was installed, there has never been a single flower...until this year! Finally, a handful of lavender-purple blossoms hang like bunches of grapes from the top of the structure. If I hadn’t glanced up I probably would have missed this first effort entirely. I can only imagine how, in just a few more years, the show will be so breathtaking that everyone passing by will remark at its beauty.

There are two species of wisteria commonly grown by gardeners: Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and Japanese wisteria (*W. floribunda*). Their twining vines are vigorous with a capital “V,” quite capable of growing 25 or more feet tall. Wisteria are valued mostly for their purple toned or white flowers, which, as mentioned, hang in pendulant clusters in mid to late May, arriving just as the foliage is unfurling. The flowers are fragrant, and pea-like, accounting for the fact that plant is a member of the pea family. In addition to it being vigorous and pretty when in flower, the wisteria is hardy and long-lived. If there are Victorian era homes in your town, no doubt one or more will still sport a wisteria trailing over the front porch. Examine an old specimen up close and you will notice a gnarled, twisted trunk several inches in diameter. Sometimes, with careful pruning, the vine can take on a self-supporting tree-like form.

Wisteria has the reputation of taking notoriously long to flower. Plants started from seed reportedly won’t do so for 10 to 15 years! Those grown from cuttings, layers from the mother plant, or those that are grafted will bloom somewhat sooner, usually in seven to 10 seasons. To encourage early and dependable flowers, be sure to plant wisteria in full sun. Six hours of direct sunlight each day is necessary. Deep, fertile soil that is neutral to slightly acidic (pH 6-7) will grow the healthiest plants. Start off with a planting hole at least 24 to 36 inches in diameter and 18 to 24 inches deep, amending it with one-third its volume in compost, peat moss or well-rotted manure.

Wisteria also has the reputation of being able to “leap small buildings in a single



bound,” and topple the weaker ones to the ground! Be prepared by having a strong vertical support in place prior to planting the vine. Trellises, pergolas or arbors will all suffice. Other, solid surfaces can be mounted with rows of copper wire for the vines to twine on. The copper won’t rust and it will disappear among the plant material as it ages. Plant wisteria no deeper than it was growing in the pot from the nursery, unless it was grafted, then the graft union should be planted just under the surface of the soil. Water well after planting and throughout the first season of growth. A well-balanced fertilizer can be added annually.

Once the vine is well established, fertilize only if deficiencies are evident, and water only upon wilting. By discouraging vegetative growth, flower production will be encouraged. If numerous years have gone by and still there are no flowers, a heaping application of phosphorous in the form of superphosphate (0-20-0) may help. You can also try pruning back new growth severely in late spring or early summer. If that doesn’t stimulate flowers the following season, try root pruning in late fall to “check” vegetative top growth. This is done by simply cutting into the soil with a spade four feet from the trunk to a depth of about 18 inches.

Sure, it may take awhile for wisteria to flower, but believe me, it is worth the wait!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



EDITORIAL
POLICY

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

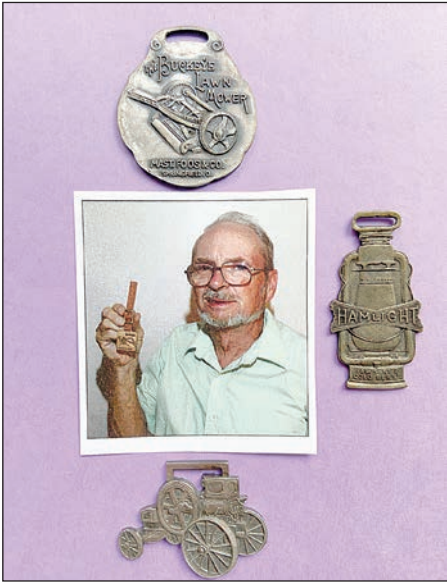
Watch That Fob

By Deborah Daniels

Some people collect stamps, some collect coins, but have you ever heard of collecting fobs? Dale Cooper, a transplanted Hilltowner, made me aware of fob collecting. The story of how you got into collecting is always worth hearing. I have a brother who collects glass paperweights. He drove a truck for a living. My brother made deliveries to the glass blowers in Shelburne Falls. There is a connection there. I suspect he was given a glass paperweight, no not as a gift, but more as insurance against his taking out the building while backing in a delivery. That was the start of his beautiful collection!

Dale Cooper liked to watch the construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike. He and his brother walked the two miles from Chester to the Highway construction site. He grew up very near the quarry, so he was destined to be attracted to earth movers. Construction on the turnpike started in 1955 and it was opened for traffic May 15, 1957, with two lanes in each direction, all 123 miles. Trucks, backhoes, cranes, and you name it, were right there working live in front of him. He couldn't own a truck, but he could own a fob.

Fobs are brass medallions with a truck imprinted on it, attached to a leather strap. They were made by truck manufacturers as advertisements to promote their brand of vehicle. They were the original swag, sealed with a gift, for work crews. So, imagine the glee Dale felt when he realized he could buy these fobs from friends whose fathers worked in construction for 10 to 25 cents! He acquired Caterpillar bulldozers, road graders, cranes, and shovel fobs. There was nothing cooler than having one in his pocket and taking it to school. Fast forward to today he still has his collection of some 300 fobs, and he is not properly dressed until he has his fob in place. He wears his "mantiques" proudly! He has every major truck company fob — Peterbilt, Brockway, Diamond T, Ford, GMC and Euclid and Caterpillar equipment fobs. He belongs to the International Watch Fob Association, who gather annually to display, speak about, and trade fobs.



Dale Cooper, a former hilltowns resident, holds a fob with a leather strap, part of his collection of more than 300 fobs.

Submitted photos

The IWFAI have guidelines for grading fobs — 1 being a fob in mint condition with clear embossing, little wear and tear, down to 7 being a dug fob, too long in the ground! That really flies in the face of a hiker's philosophy that discovery and dirt is usually nine tenths of the excitement of finding the treasure! Note the photo showing a sample of fobs, some with colorful enamel work that are on sale at the IWFAI store. Hard to imagine them suffering from being buried in the dirt.

Be aware of counterfeit fobs; the genuine article has to have a clear manufacturer's stamp on it. Many counterfeit fobs will have the manufacturer's name smudged because it has been copied. Fobs are not limited to the trucking industry. There are fobs from food manufacturers such as coffee and Coke and from organizations such as State Fairs, political parties down to symbols such as the Statue of Liberty and Irish shamrocks. It is still a common industry manner of advertisement.

Fob watches were developed in Europe in the 16th century as a way to anchor a watch in a waist pocket to protect it from the weather and still have the watch available to read. The word fob



A fob pocket watch.



A sample of fobs from the International Watch Fob Association Store.

is from the German word fuppe which means small pocket. Fob watches flourished during the mid-18th century, worn by both men and women right up until WWI when wrist watches came about. The fob was made of ribbon, leather, braided human hair, boar's hair and silver and gold chains. Mostly a pocket watch was attached to one end and the other end attached to a vest buttonhole or belt. There were military fobs that often had a prayer embossed on the reverse side of a medallion carried by soldiers. After the war, fraternal groups like the Knights of



Several military fobs.



Butch Cassidy wearing a fob chain from the movie.

Columbus would give brass medallion fobs to soldiers commemorating their years of service. A bit of commemorative brass in your pocket felt good.

Dale Cooper follows the Hilltown events through the Country Journal. He lives in South Carolina; he says "Hi" to y'all now. Celebrate your memories of home. We wish you well, Dale! If anyone would like to contact Dale Cooper, please email the Country Journal for his address.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

HISTORY

from page 4

Two and a half years later, the expedition returned, in triumph, to St. Louis with 33 men. They had mapped out new lands and brought back journals about the Indian tribes they encountered; scientific notes of the flora and fauna they encountered, and a claim to the Oregon Territory.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history. For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Sacajawea," by Joseph Bruchac.

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Café returns outdoors June 11

CUMMINGTON — The Friday Night Café is excited to announce it is returning in person at the pavilion in Pettingill memorial Park for a series of six outdoor performances this summer beginning in June.

Performances will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of June, July, and August, beginning on June 11 with Josh Wachtel and friends, featuring special guest Norma Jean Hayes. It is guaranteed to be fun, eclectic, and celebratory. Live Music is back at the Cafe!

COVID-19 state regulations in place at the time of the show will be followed; if it is damp or threatening rain the Café will gather under the pavilion; if it is heavy rain, it will be cancelled; if it is a

beautiful summer evening, it may be set up on the lawn; guests must bring their own chairs, blankets, snacks, and drinks, but no alcohol is allowed; guests should be prepared for bugs.

It will be the first live performance since the beginning of the pandemic. During this time, the Friday Night Café adopted a "Lo-Fi" approach as many performers have gone the route of live streaming their performances, or making videos, during COVID-19, and posting them on the New Rural Advocate website.

Once again, this is brought to the community by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



BLANDFORD

TREE TREK



A visit to the Chester-Blandford Forest includes a walk among massive chestnut trees for Ronnie. Lyle Congdon is pictured in the background. Submitted photo

Library hosts addiction program

BLANDFORD — Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau announced that Dylan Lundgren will present his program “Hope Beyond What We See, Six Steps for Getting Help with Addiction.” The program is Tuesday, May 25 from 7 to 8 p.m. and will be presented virtually.

Contact the library at blandfordporterlibrary@gmail.com to register and receive a link to the program.

Lundgren is a trained and certified Addiction Recovery Advocate. His mission is to work with individuals and organizations to increase engagement in the addiction recovery process and improve long-term outcomes.

Lundgren has been professionally involved in the addiction treatment since his recovery in 2004, offering various holistic modalities and solution-oriented strategies. He co-created the Mind-Body-Spirit Program, as well as the Fitness Program, for the nationally acclaimed treatment center, Mountainside, in Northwest Connecticut.

Information on his website states he participated in a community development internship at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. This helped Lundgren develop a spirituality and



Dylan Lundgren

community development training for sober houses, treatment centers, and local communities.

He believes the power of community is essential in addressing addiction and related challenges. A Nationally Certified Recovery Coach and Food Addictions Coach, he also holds certifications in Personal Training, Yoga, and Leadership Development.

Addiction is an insidious thing, yet there are very clear markers along the way. These markers can be signs to intervene, offer support, and redirect

According to Lundgren, one of the benefits of seeking treatment for addiction in today’s world is the massive amount of resources available but the return-to-use rate is high and the long-term recovery rate is low.

His presentation, intended for individuals struggling with addiction or their families, will include reliable and relevant resources, and multiple solutions for seeking recovery from addiction.

Learn the signs of addiction and its progression understand the importance of biochemical and cultural influences and learn six specific steps for getting help with addiction.

Memorial Day observances start at 11:30

BLANDFORD — American Legion member and organizer of the town’s annual Memorial Day observances Doug Emo announced last week the parade will be Monday, May 31.

The parade will start promptly at 11:30 a.m. at the Blandford town offices. All participants should be at the town offices no later than 11 a.m. All town veterans are invited to march.

The parade will proceed to Main Street then up the hill to Veterans’ Park at Town Commons, Emo will conduct the services honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the



Doug Emo

country.

Kyle Mangini will perform patriotic music and Jon Berman will perform the National Anthem. Elementary school students will read essays written to commemorate Memorial Day.

The Blandford Historical Society will be open from 10:30 a.m. to noon and will have a special Veterans display.

The annual town picnic will follow immediately in Watson Park. More information about the picnic will be forthcoming. The Recreation Committee is organizing the event.

OPEN

and Gas Inspector, John VanHeynigen as Electrical and Wiring Inspector, and Joseph Henning as Veterans’ Agent.

The Fire Department will participate in the Berkshire County mutual aid.

The board reviewed again the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and are including an additional article that will incentivize more participation for

the Fire Department by offering a real property abatement or excise tax abatement for certified volunteer firefighters. Voters will be asked to authorize the board to petition the state legislature for special legislation to do this. The board asked to find out what other towns do for this.

Another new proposed article asks voters to accept M.G.L. Ch. 39 Sec.

23D, the Mullin Rule, which would permit members of boards or commissions absent from no more than one session of “an adjudicatory hearing may still act on the matter at a future session.”

Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia, who joined the meeting virtually, told the board that there was only one viable candidate, an internal

candidate, for the Highway Department Superintendent.

The search committee had narrowed the field to three, but felt only one was “a good fit.”

Select board member Eric McVey said that since the legwork had already been done by the committee

The board will interview the candidate next week.

NEW LOOK FOR SPRING



Pedro Serrano and Michael Deziel of Tech Roofing Service prep materials to install new gutters at the Porter Memorial Library. Photos by Mary Kronholm



Sean Bresnahan crafts gutter endcaps prior to installation.



Pedro Serrano and Michael Deziel install the longest gutter section.



The library with its new, finished look.

from page 1

CHESTER

BOARD

from page 1

power as they should be. He explained the solar is barely fueling six lightbulbs and believes that the installation maybe the cause of the problem.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was in charge of the solar project and with the confusion of installation and the power not being evenly distributed, they feel PVPC dropped the ball on the project. Baldasaro said he contacted an electric company to come in and look at the set up, and while that company said the issue could be fixed.

The solar work was recently done, but the problem seems to be that solar panels put on a certain pole connected to a certain meter doesn't properly allow electricity from the meter to the highway garage. The Board of Selectmen, Highway Department, and the Chester Municipal Electric Light Department are currently working together to find a solution; the Highway Department and Selectmen believe that the problem began with the administrator of the solar panels as they should have caught that the meter wasn't outputting enough electricity. The Selectmen are currently working on it, and are expected to give updates on the progress at future meeting.

The Historical Society attended the meeting to discuss Memorial Day observances. Recently, a Historical Society member inquired about an event for Memorial Day; it was discussed that the Board of Selectmen was in charge of Memorial Day and not the Society. When brought to the Selectmen, they said the Historical Society is in charge of hosting and planning the Memorial Day events.

Selectboard Chair Barbara Pease Huntoon explained the Selectmen were

in charge of the Memorial Day planning years ago, but after they canceled the event once due to rain the Historical Society took over the responsibility and have planned the Memorial Day events for the last six years or so. Huntoon said figuring out who's supposed to plan it isn't as important if the town wants to hold an event this year. During the meeting she said she'd volunteer to plan and set up the events for this year's Memorial Day along with a few residential volunteers and some from the Historical Society. More information will be announced as it's available, and the Memorial Day plans will be included on future agenda.

As for Selectmen meeting attendance, the board has reconsidered it's return to in-person only meetings. Selectman John Baldasaro said the board should look into holding hybrid meetings due to the large number of comments and complaints from residents about no longer having virtual meetings.

To appease residents who don't feel comfortable returning to in-person meetings, the board decided to create hybrid meetings, where people are more than welcome and encouraged to attend in-person at the Town Hall or they can connect online through GoToMeeting where an access link will be included in the meeting agenda.

Currently the Selectmen are playing the hybrid meetings by ear, but their last meeting on Monday, May 10, was held as a hybrid meeting and ran fairly smoothly. The Board will continue to work on the best ways to hold hybrid meetings for now, if that's how residents prefer it. People can check the town website, townofchester.net, for the board's meeting agenda.

HEIGHT OF HIKES



The Freedburgs donated a large portion of land to Hilltown Land Trust in 2015, leading to two trails and superb high elevation hiking is open to all. Pictured is Sarah Freedburg on the summit of Round Top Hill, the highest peak in Hampden County. Submitted Photo

Leisure lodging permits filing open

CHESTER — The Board of Health would like to remind Bed and Breakfast operators and owners that a 2021 Hospitality-Leisure Lodging Permit must be filed in order to operate in 2021.

Please print a permit application found on www.TownofChester.net under the "Documents" tab and mail in or

drop in the black box in front of town hall. The fee is \$150 per calendar year and runs July to June. An inspection is required.

Please contact the Chester Board of Health with questions 413-354-7781, 413-519-3396, or BoardofHealth@townofchester.net.

Annual Town Meeting Saturday, May 15

CHESTERFIELD — Annual Town Meeting will convene at 9 a.m. at the ballfield behind New Hingham Elementary School on Saturday, May 15.

A copy of the 21-article warrant and Finance Committee recommendations are available at townofchesterfieldma.com. The inclement weather date is Saturday, May 22.

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you and your
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at Springfield
College.



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RUSSELL

Shooting sports on target for WHOA Saturday, May 15

RUSSELL — Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures’ shooting sports will be hitting the mark on Saturday, May 15, at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation in Russell.

WHOA participants will need steady hands and keep their eyes on the target to hit the bull’s eye at the archery, rifle, tomahawk, and the sporting clays ranges. WHOA’s certified range directors will be on hand to assist any budding marksman to be on the mark throughout the day.

Although safety regulations restrict use of the rifle, sporting clays and tomahawk ranges to those eleven years and older, the archery range is open to all ages. Additionally, in the interests of safety, participants are asked to keep their own personal firearms, bows and tomahawks at home. Only WHOA rifles, shotguns, tomahawks, and bows are permitted on the camp ranges. As part of WHOA’s all-inclusive \$10 registration fee, the shotgun and .22 caliber ammunition is provided at no additional charge.

For the second month in a row, WHOA participants may test their nerves and challenge their “fear of heights” as they work their way to the top Pike’s Peak of one of the tallest climbing towers in the northeast. Named for one of Moses Scout Reservation’s beloved rangers, climbers are rewarded with tremendous views of the surrounding area from atop the tower’s 60-foot-high observation deck. From the peak of “The Peak,” climbers sometimes jokingly call out, “Hey! I think I can see my house from up here!”

Specially trained and climbing certified WHOA staff members will be on hand to assist the climbers. With safety being their primary concern, the WHOA climbing staff will outfit participants with helmets, gloves, and harnesses. Additionally, each climber will have their own dedicated staff member to belay them on their journey to the top and their rappel back down to the ground. The Bouldering Wall will also be available for younger WHOA folks who are too young to take on Pike’s Peak but are still looking for climbing oppor-



Shooters will line up their targets at the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures on Saturday, May 15, with a variety of rifles, shotguns, tomahawks, and archery. Submitted photos



The Bouldering Wall is a popular attraction for young climbers who aren’t quite ready to tackle Pike’s peak yet.

tunities. The Bouldering Wall is open to anyone wishing to challenge their balancing skills by scrambling along the forty feet of “rock” wall without setting foot on the ground.

In other WHOA news, Director Mia Santos-Izyk said, “We are introducing a brand new program, Automotive

Systems and Fundamentals.”

This new adventure promises to keep the WHOA participant’s feet firmly on the ground and introduce them to the powers of the internal combustion engine and the vehicles powered by them. This “how to” program will provide information on various vehicle situ-

ations, how to fix them and how to avoid them. Along with Automotive Systems those who may wish to develop their outdoor cooking skills may be able to satisfy their hunger for knowledge at the new What’s Cooking program area.

Many additional activities will be offered at Moses Scout Reservation; WHOA’s renowned blacksmith shop with WHOA’s Forged In Fire TV show personality, Dana Dupuis, being on hand to guide folks in making useful creations for the home. Visitors who like to throw things will have the opportunity to do just that at the disc golf course. The nine “hole” disc golf course will challenge the user’s skills in getting a hole-in-one as they navigate through not so fair fairways of open fields, wooded forest, and swampy wetlands. There are also opportunities to explore around across the Reservation’s 1300 acres.

Even with the adjusted COVID-19 restrictions, throughout the Pioneer Valley, few family activities were available in the area except for WHOA. As a result, last month’s April 24th event had record breaking attendance figures with more than 140 guests. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the registration cost for all these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age. The May 15 activities all commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, Santos-Izyk advises all participants and WHOA staff that various modifications to the usual WHOA programs are still in place.

Participants will be required to pre-register and prepay on-line at; www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202105. No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited, and participants may be asked to assemble into groups of 12 or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether outside or in enclosed areas.

A full list of WHOA’s COVID-19 modifications is available on its website at www.wmascouting.org/WHOA.



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CONGREGATION CLEANUP



Jo-Anne Auclair rakes up fallen branches on Saturday, May 1, with parishioners of Holy Family Parish gathering at the St. Thomas Cemetery to rake, clean up debris, and remove leaves, sticks, and fallen branches from the grounds. With everything cleaned up and the cemetery opened, families are now able to visit their loved ones. The Parish thanks everyone who helped contribute. Submitted photos



Father Ron Sadlowski and parishioners discuss what work needs to be done.



Carol Thibeault helped with the cleanup.



Parishioners clearing fallen branches.

REGION

New rail study celebrated by advocates for area commuter line

By Michael Harrison

REGION — Advocates of a new commuter rail line connecting Western Mass. to Boston are cheering the release of a new Capitol Region Council of Governments report backing all the main arguments for public investment in the project.

“The study is great for Palmer,” Ben Hood, chairman of the East-West Rail Steering Committee said.

“The inland route between Boston and New York City is the key to unlocking the enormous economic benefits and transit-oriented development that would accompany restored passenger rail to Palmer. We are well-positioned at the northeast corner of Metro Hartford-Springfield, closest to Worcester and Boston. The study recognizes the work we’ve done to prepare for restored passenger rail.”

Prepared by the international consulting firm AECOM, which specializes in infrastructure, the report not only celebrates modern mass transit as a tool for economic and social transformation but accuses state and federal governments of negligence over a lack of progress. Although it hails the 2018 opening of the Hartford-Springfield line as a step in the right direction, the service just scratches the surface, the consultant said, and even that new line needs improvement, according to the study.

“The work remaining to be done includes electrification, additional rolling stock, a replacement of the Connecticut River Bridge at Windsor Locks, double-tracking of key segments, five new or relocated stations, and upgrading the downtown Hartford rail viaduct. These improvements, estimated to cost up to

\$3 billion, would boost speed, reliability, and access,” the study states.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission also had input on the report.

The East-West Rail project in Massachusetts would connect Springfield to Worcester and Boston, and potentially westward to Pittsfield.

“These services nominally exist today, but with only one train in each direction (Amtrak’s Lakeshore Limited), unreliable performance, and uncompetitively slow speeds—about an hour longer than driving in mid-day conditions. While several alternatives remain in play, an investment in the \$4 billion range would cut nearly an hour off the Springfield-Boston trip, enable at least 10 round trips per day, and provide comfort and reliability,” according to the report.

“In Boston, the train would stop not only at South Station, with its instant connections to the Red and Silver Lines and much of downtown accessible on foot, but at the key destinations of Back Bay, the Longwood Medical Area (Lansdowne Station), and the future multimodal hub at West Station. Together, the East-West Line and the completed Hartford Line would reconstitute a 21st-century version of the old Inland Route—regular train service from Boston to New York via Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, and New Haven—which the region has lacked for decades. It would create a regional network of great versatility and economic potential, combining intercity service all along the corridor with high-frequency, transit-like service in the Hartford-Springfield core.”

RAIL, page 12

PLAINFIELD



From left, Dan Shearer, Assistant Chief and Instructor Duane Meehan, Brandon Nevins, and Jamie Wooldridge at the final “Live Burn” training held at the Sunderland Fire Burn Building.

Submitted photo

Three firefighters complete Hampshire County fire training

PLAINFIELD — Three Plainfield Firefighters completed the Hampshire County Fire Basic 6 training program this past month.

The Basic 6 is held over six weekend days and is 44 hours total. Training includes PPE safety, ICS, Search and Rescue, Ladders, hose operations and the final live fire training. Dan Shearer, Brandon Nevins, and Jamie Wooldridge all completed the course. The firefighters completed the program on the own free time and the Town of Plainfield appreciates their efforts to learn critical skills involved in fireground operations.

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WESTHAMPTON

Collectors
work on
tax bill
solution

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard discussed a variety of issues during their first meeting of the year on Monday, Jan. 4, including a small error in information with tax bills. Tax Collector Patricia Cotton just started as the collector on Friday, Jan. 1. Cotton told board members that she met with the previous tax collector, Am Marie Knox, on her proposed last day, Thursday, Dec. 31, where the two ran into a problem with tax bills. Cotton said she received calls from someone who received bills for property that were sold two-and-a-half years ago. "We're not quite sure what's going on, we're going to have to meet with the assessor," Cotton said. "We don't know if the file went wrong, we don't know if it's just one or if it's going to be more than that." She added neither her or Knox know the extent of the errors and they will both

TAX, page 3

Lake Life



Littleville Lake in Huntington sits calmly before last week's winter snowstorm. Submitted photos



Russ LaPierre goes as far as the rocks below in the lake.

WORTHINGTON

Power, school on
new year plans

By Peter Spotts

The new year is shaping up to be busy for the town as special town meetings, projects, and three phase power upgrades are all slated for 2021. Selectman Charles Rose said the completion of three phase power on Route 145 will open up new business opportunities for the town and provide a second source of power for the town in case of outages.

IMPROVEMENTS, page 13

BLANDFORD

Looking ahead to
new year in town

By Mary Krumholz

The end of 2020 brings hope to town officials, business owners and residents that 2021 will bring improvement, but also say mindful about being safe and keeping the community safe from COVID-19. "I expect we'll see more of the same, we just put our minds to work, asked questions, took action to mitigate risks in line with anticipated success, and we were able to make things happen," Selectman Eric McVey said. "Challenges that as a town we'll rise to and apply creativity to resolve, while we look out for our neighbors and friends."

NEW YEAR, page 6

GOSHEN

Broadband, study
on tap for 2021

By Shelby Macri

While the town saw the impact of the pandemic early in 2020, essential services were kept running, a few projects were completed, and the town is looking forward to a brighter 2021. The town saw the addition of a new roof on the New Hingham Elementary School, completed repairs to the Transfer Station landfill project, and frequent updates to the town website to be user friendly during this time

BECKET

Marijuana business gathers public comment

By Shelby Macri

Mark Goodenough and Brian Vincent applied for a marijuana cultivation farm in town and hosted a public meeting on Sunday, Jan. 3, to answer any questions about their proposal. The Planning Board will vote on the application on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. The public meeting was held to introduce the partners of the establishment and give information on what they plan to do if their application is accepted. The meeting allowed for residents to comment and ask questions, and to understand more of the planned operation that he has had experience in growing and cultivating marijuana, and he believes he can successfully recreate his process in Becket. The proposed establishment, Petaluma Agricultural Technologies, provided a slide show of information. The establishment would include wholesale products that would be sold to dispensaries, however, there would be no retail sales or onsite foot traffic at all. The plans for the farm include a 120-to-150 foot greenhouse and 43,500 square feet outside with an area to use for outdoor farming. Selectboard member Michael Lavery attended the public meeting to hear and learn more about Petaluma. Brook Goodenough and Lavery said residents' main concerns involved light and possible light pollution and the safety of the plants. "There were many comments about light pollution, and we work with infrared cameras," Goodenough said, "but those are low light, and we won't need flood lights." Goodenough explained that the company would be

MARIJUANA, page 3

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CJ21TMC

BECKET

Scholarship applications due Saturday for town seniors

BECKET — The Becket Scholarship Foundation awards financial grants to students to help with financing their first year of college.

Awards are open to students who live in Becket and are based on schol-

arship, community service, and leadership. Applications must be received by Saturday, May 15. For more information or to receive the application form, please contact Kathy Rodhouse at KRodhousR3@aol.com at 413-623-5014.



Residents vote on one of 19 articles during the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 8, at the Becket Washington School.

Photo by Shelby Macri

PETITION

from page 1

The citizen petition for “jake brakes” was brought up to the board of Selectmen prior to the ATM; resident and petitioner Rob Benton spoke about the large number of pickup trucks and large commercial trucks using both Bonny Rigg Hill Road and Algeria Road amongst others. The use of these roads by large trucks has increased in the last few years and caused increased noise in the area. Benton added that many people walk along the two roads. Also, there are children who play outside during the times the trucks go by; due to the noise, it’s hard for parents to communicate with and call to children.

The petition asked the residents to vote to amend Becket Bylaws Article 17 by adding Section 25 on engine braking. The purpose of this section is to prohibit the use of engine retarding and compression braking devices while on thickly settled and residential roads of Becket. Prohibitions in the bylaw include using compression brakes associated with excessive noise on residential roads with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or lower, and the enforcement would include a \$300 fine.

While Benton spoke in favor of the petition, others spoke in opposition of the bylaw including John Tonlino a truck driver of 18 years that was brought in as an expert. He spoke on behalf of truck drivers who use the roads listed in the petition as he test drove both Algeria Road and Bonny Rigg Hill Road to see if it were safe to not use compression brakes. “I think this bylaw would put the town at risk.

“The jake brakes are used when there are steep hills like bonny Rigg Hill Road, and when it’s not safe to only use regular brakes,” Tonlino said. “I wouldn’t feel comfortable using regular brakes on these roads; I tested it out and it’s dangerous. This bylaw could cause accidents on town roads.”

Others spoke similarly on the possibility of this bylaw causing accidents and bringing legal matters to town depending on the severity of an accident. After Tonlino spoke, resident Lukas Horn agreed and added a few comments for the Selectboard to consider, including the incident of passing the bylaw and having a truck not use it’s compression brakes when needed to avoid a \$300 fine. Horn said the bylaw is arbitrary and targets large trucks simply for the noise the brakes make rather than the safety they provide.

Police Chief Kristopher McDonough said he and the Police Department wouldn’t be monitoring this

bylaw if passed, for a number of reasons.

“I’ve never driven a truck; if these brakes are a safety device I can’t appropriately say not to use them. I can see if this passes and trucks go down those roads, I see a disaster.” McDonough said. “None of my officers are trained to monitor brakes and I don’t see a way to enforce this bylaw. This isn’t effective.”

While there is training for officers to learn more on monitoring brakes, McDonough mentioned that these brakes are safety measure for large trucks and drivers should be allowed to discern when to use them. The article required a majority vote, which it lost as a majority of residents were opposed.

The other 18 articles had little or no discussion, as 14 articles were approved unanimously and four were approved by majority. For Article 17, regarding the historical preservation of the First Congregational Church, Ray Ellsworth of the Board of Trustees explained the need for the \$100,000 for needed repairs. Ellsworth said the town appropriated \$15,000 for the architect to look at the leak in the Belfast, they finished their work and determined that due to the water damage a type of beetle was introduced to the wood in the Belfast and the combination of the two are damaging the structure of the Belfast.

Ellsworth said to complete the needed repairs they have to go to bid for about \$200,000 and the church is asking the town for half the amount so they can also bid \$100,000. He added that without the town’s help he doesn’t know what the church will do. A resident spoke in favor of preserving the church and Belfast as it houses and protects the bell within the church, as its a Paul Revere bell and is a claim to fame for the town. Selectman Michael Lavery spoke in favor of the article as well.

“These funds are always taken out at the same rate, they are continual funds that are always pooled and taken out annually,” Lavery said.

If the money is going to be taken out anyway, it should be used to help preserve a historical landmark in town, and the article passed by majority.

After all the articles had been addressed, residents were reminded the Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 15, at the Town Hall from noon to 4 p.m. to vote for the election of candidates in six offices. The offices and number of seats that residents will vote on is available on the ATM warrant and on the town website; those who would like information on the upcoming election can visit www.townofbecket.org.

MIDDLEFIELD

Town Caucus convenes May 19

MIDDLEFIELD — The Town Caucus will take place on Wednesday, May 19, from 4 to 8 p.m.

The following positions will be up for election, all terms are for three year terms: Cemetery Commission, incumbent Tim Pease running for re-election; Constable, incumbent Curt Robie running for re-election; Finance Committee, incumbent Joseph Kearns running for re-election; Library Trustee, Susan Baker-Donnelly running for election; Moderator, incumbent Joe Kearns is running for a one-year term; Planning Board, incumbent Doreen Black running for re-election; Selectboard, Curt Robie running

for election; Town Clerk, incumbent Suzanne Lemieux running for re-election.

There is a vacant seat on the Board of Assessors, two vacant seats on the Finance Committee, two vacant seats on the Planning Board, and two vacant seats on the Gateway Regional School Committee. Anyone interested in running for the vacancies should contact the town clerk by email at townclerk@middlefieldma.net, at 413-623-2079, by mail P.O. Box265, the municipal drop box, or in person to provide a letter of intent, which should include the candidate’s contact info and intent.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, May 19, is orange chicken, oriental blend, cavatappi noodles, rye bread, and fig bar.

OTIS

Town Beach opens for residents Saturday, May 29, permit needed

OTIS — The Town Beach will open for the season on May 29, but will be restricted to town residents and their guests, and follow safety measures for COVID-19.

The Beach is located at the end of Great Woods Road. The swim season will end on Sept. 7 and the Beach will close on Oct. 21. Beach users must have a valid transfer station permit, which serves as the Town Beach parking permit, on their vehicle. To get a permit, contact the Selectmen’s Office at 413-269-0100.

Beach is “use at your own risk” as there is no lifeguard on duty. No

pets are allowed. Water test results are available by contacting the Selectmen’s Office.

The Beach will follow state guidelines for coastal and inland beaches. This includes a minimum 12 feet of distance between toweling or beach blanket groups, groups are limited to no more than 15 people, beach visitors are required to maintain a minimum six feet of social distance at all times, and face coverings required for all visitors.

A copy of the full list of COVID-19 safety measures and Town Beach rules is available at www.townofotisma.com and are posted at the Town Beach.

Annual Town Meeting meets Tuesday

OTIS — Annual Town Meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road, on Tuesday, May 18.

The Town Election will take place on Tuesday, May 25

A full copy of the 27-article warrant is available at townofotisma.com.

Town of Otis
THE TOWN OF OTIS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
PART TIME OFFICERS**

The Town of Otis Police Department is accepting applications for the position of part-time police officer. We are looking for officers who can fill in periodically on a part-time basis, and also for road details, special events, and emergencies. Applicants must be a graduate of the MPTC Basic Recruit OR Reserve/Intermittent Police Academy and have a current CPR and First Responder certification. Applicants must also be at least 21 years of age with a valid MA Driver's License and a MA Class A License to Carry Permit. An employment application and a complete job description can be obtained on our website www.townofotisma.com. Please return application, resume, letter of interest, copies of all certifications, and 2 letters of recommendation to: Dan T. Hamill, Chief of Police, Otis Police Dept., 1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253, policechief@townofotisma.com. Position will remain open until filled. No phone calls, please. Town of Otis is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
LABORER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

The Town of Otis seeks applicants for a full-time laborer/equipment operator position with the Highway Department. CDL Class B, with 2B hoisting license preferred. A full job description and application are available on our website at www.townofotisma.com or by contacting the Administrator's Office. Please submit an employment application to the Town of Otis, ATTN: Town Administrator, P.O. Box 237, 1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. For more information contact the Highway Superintendent at (413) 269-0106. Position will remain open until filled.

WESTHAMPTON

Library events schedule packed

WESTHAMPTON — The Westhampton Public Library is partnering with Grown in Westhampton and local residents to install a pollinator garden featuring early and late blooming plants this spring.

Planting days will continue on Saturday, May 15, and May 29, from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring gardening tools and stop by to lend a hand or come say hello. This project is being funded by American Library Association’s Resilient Communities program, The Friends of Westhampton Library, and Gardener’s Supply Company. All herbs and compost will be sourced locally by Intervale Farm and Bridgmont Farm respectively.

The library will hold Bike Maintenance 101 on Saturday, May 22, at 1 p.m. Learn about bikes and its parts and get hands-on experience fixing a flat tire. The program will review how to remove and install bike wheels and tires, patching and replacing tubes, and routine maintenance. All are welcome to bring their own bike, bike pumps, tools, and any questions about repair and maintenance.

Virtual Book Group will return on Tuesday, May 25, at 7 p.m. It meets once a month and is open to new members. They are currently debating its next book to read. For Zoom login information, contact westhampton@cwmar.org.

The Spring Adult/Teen Craft has two kits available including colorful branches and accordion butterflies. To request a kit, contact mschwelm@cwmar.org.

Join Mary for outdoor play with large scale toys like hula hoops and steppingstones. Connect with other families safely and beat the social isolation on Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Playgroup will be canceled in the case of inclement weather.

Youth Service Librarian Emily Wayne hosts online story time on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Contact ewayne@cwmar.org for Zoom login information and beat social isolation with other families.

Effective April 20, the library will have curbside only pickup on Monday and Thursday from 2 to 8 p.m. Seniors will have browsing hours on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon with browsing for all open from 1 to 5 p.m.

Browsing for all will be available on Wednesday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

No appointment is necessary for in-person browsing. For more information, visit the Westhampton Public Library page on westhampton-ma.com or contact 413-527-5386.

RESOLUTION

from page 1

added Steve Holt.

Highway Superintendent Bill Jablonski raised one concern about whether the resolution would be used to impede the department from mowing the sides of the roads.

“I don’t think that’s an issue at all,” replied Committee member Lori Sanders. “Approving this shouldn’t have an impact on [the mowing].”

Jablonski was also involved in the most controversial warrant article of the day as the voters debated whether to fund part of the construction of a break room in the Highway Garage. Selectboard Chair Philip Dowling said it was part of the original garage design, but wasn’t included in the final plans when it was built 16 years ago.

“That was never done because of financial reasons at the time,” Dowling said.

With money left over from the Town Hall roof project coming in under budget, Dowling wanted to reallocate the funds into the start of construction for steel stairs, a deck, and the walls of the break room. However, the Finance Committee recommended against the article, but support the whole project, because of the proposal came forward after completing the budget process and there’s no final number for how much everything will cost or a concrete plan.

“I can’t [support it] until we have the numbers,” said Finance Committee member Sarah Mulvehill.

The Finance Committee had similar concerns with Article 14 asking for \$9,000 to paint the Town Hall walls and refinish the floors if great hall. They support the project as a whole, but were against the specific article due to it not following the normal budget timeline procedure.

Voters did approve Article 14, but the vote took place before the Finance Committee voiced its stance on the project; voters chose to table Article 15 until the Annual Town meeting reconvene.

Article 15 will join several budget items at the reconvene. Finance Committee Chair Mary Cleary requested for the debt on the public safety complex design, engineering, construction, and highway pickup, and interest on debt to be held to the reconvene as the town needs more time to finalize the numbers.

“The numbers are being worked on right now. We will have final numbers at the reconvene,” Cleary said.

Article 25, the appropriation of money from Free Cash to balance the budget, will also be held until the reconvene.

All other articles on the 26-warrant article passed including the town operating budget, Hampshire Regional School District assessment increase of \$59,271, and the Westhampton Elementary School increase if \$98,986.

Voters approved \$14,500 for the biannual financial audit of the town; \$2,000 for treasurer, collector, clerk support training and expenses; \$25,000 for ambulance services in agreement with Easthampton; \$20,000 to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for town employees; \$2,000 to re-authorize a revolving department for the Fire Department; \$6,000 to re-authorize a revolving fund for the Westhampton Cemetery; \$8,000 to re-authorize a revolving fund for the Police Department School Resource Officer; \$5,000 for Police Department equipment and training; \$7,500 for police reform training; and \$50,000 to be transferred from Free Cash to the stabilization fund. As of Jan. 31, Free Cash has a balance of \$518,509 and stabilization at \$383,515.18.

SANDISFIELD

ATM starts Saturday, May 15 at 10 a.m.

SANDISFIELD — The Annual Town Meeting is set for Saturday, May 15, at 10 a.m. at the Highway Garage located at 5 Silverbrook Road, where residents will vote on 28 articles.

A copy of the full warrant is available at sandisfieldma.gov.

REGION

RAIL

from page 9

An economic driver

At a press conference last week at Springfield Union Station, U.S. Rep. Richard E. Neal and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Executive Director Kimberly H. Robinson seized on the report as further evidence that a Biden administration infrastructure proposal should include more than \$1 billion for the East-West line. Biden’s infrastructure wish list is reportedly under negotiations among congressional leaders, but there’s been no date set for public hearings.

In the meantime, Neal, who pledged last fall to fight for the project, laid out at the press conference part of his argument on why Western Mass. needs a new, expansive commuter rail.

“In the Hartford-Springfield area (there is) a population of 1.6 million people, regional gross domestic product of over \$20 billion, 20 colleges and universities, two historic downtowns and New England’s second-largest airport, in which I believe seven million people ventured through last year,” Neal said.

“This confirms what many of us have thought about what improved rail service could do for the Springfield-Hartford-Worcester-New Haven areas, in terms of not just geography, but in terms of investment as well.”

Robinson also considers the report validation.

“In so many ways the findings of this study confirmed what we ourselves have known here for decades,” Robinson said.

“Regions that are connected by rail to major economic hubs such as Boston and New York City are thriving, while underserved communities like ours have lagged behind. We now know what the lack of rail has cost us economically and this trend simply cannot continue.”

Key findings

According to the report, the “Metro Hartford-Springfield” region would rank among the 40 largest in the U.S. “Yet the

Hartford-Springfield economy is isolated and lagging” because of gaps in the mass transit network. Filling those gaps, the report asserts, would transform the region. Its key findings include:

- Up to 40,000 jobs in information, finance, and professional services “which have fueled growth elsewhere in the Northeast” can be attracted over time to this region.
- Between New Haven and Worcester, the Inland Route rail improvements would serve 16 existing and future stations. Recent and planned development in these station areas suggests a strong market of interconnected residential communities, employment centers, and public destinations.
- Aggregate station area potential has capacity for about 20 million square feet of commercial development and 30,000 housing units.

“Together, these two outcomes – the gradual attraction of 20,000-40,000 ‘missing’ professional service jobs and the construction of station-area development – account for an estimated \$47 to \$84 billion in directly-generated regional GDP over 30 years, including \$27 to \$48 billion in wages. An additional \$15 to \$21 billion of indirect and induced GDP is estimated as well,” according to the report.

“If you can commute easily between Hartford and Springfield, or live in Windsor Locks and work in Worcester, or live in Holyoke and work in Hartford or New Haven; or if you can run a business in Springfield and routinely make day trips to New York or Stamford or Boston; or if your business at Bradley International Airport can attract workers from Wallingford and Palmer—all by train, without the expense of car ownership or the future roadway congestion that will come with growth— that’s a competitive advantage for the region,” the report states.

Reporter Jonah Snowden contributed to this story.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

First Congregational Church of Becket Request for Proposals for the Restoration of the First Church First Floor Structure

The First Congregational Church of Becket is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the restoration of the historic First Church First Floor Structure. A copy of the Proposal Documents may be obtained by contacting Jack Rodhouse at 413-623-5014, email at krodhouse3@aol.com.

All Proposals must be sealed and addressed as follows:
First Congregational Church

of Becket
First Church First Floor
Restoration Proposal
PO Box 327, 22 YMCA Road
Becket, MA 01223

On site visits shall be 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, 22 May 2021. All Proposals must be received by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 June, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened.

The procurement is being conducted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 149, 5/13/2021

First Congregational Church of Becket Request for Proposals Restoration of First Church

Belfry

The First Congregational Church of Becket is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the restoration of the historic First Church Belfry. The required work is explained in the Contract Documents: “Restoration Notes for Belfry,” and drawings A1-A5. This document will contain information required for the Committee to determine a suitable Contractor. The procurement is being conducted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 149.

A copy of the Proposal Documents may be obtained by contacting Jack Rodhouse at 413-623-5014, email at

krodhouse3@aol.com
All Proposals must be received by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened. Proposals must be sealed and addressed as follows:

First Congregational Church of Becket
First Church Belfry Proposal
PO Box 327, 22 YMCA Road
Becket, MA 01223

On site visits shall be 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, May 22, 2021. All Proposals must be received by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 2 June 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.
05/13/2021



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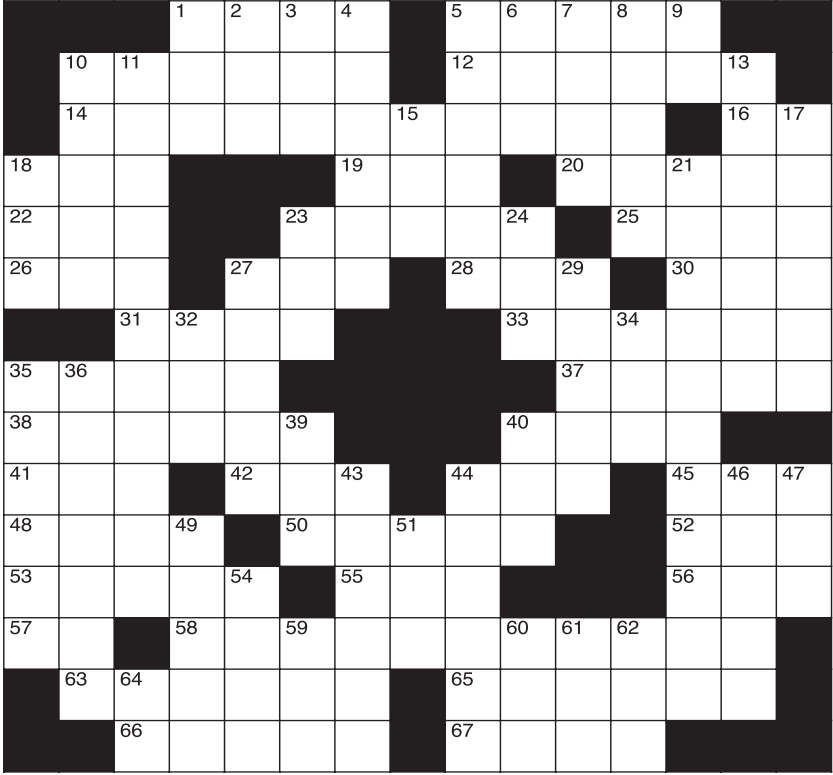
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Large, flightless birds

5. Lifts and moves heavy objects

10. Hyundai sedan

12. Wear away by erosion

14. Arranged alphabetically

16. Top prosecutor

18. ___-de-sac: Short dead-end street

19. Digital audiotape

20. Linguistics pioneer

22. Singer DiFranco

23. Arms of the sea

25. Near-reach weapon (abbr.)

26. Ballplayer's accessory

27. You get one at the beach

28. U.S. founding father

30. W. Australia indigenous people

31. Amounts of time

33. Put on the shelf

35. Russian dynasty member

37. City along the Elbe River

38. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf

40. Actor Damon

41. ___ King Cole, musician

42. Company that rings receipts

44. Scatter

45. Basics

48. Part of a door

50. Indicates silence

52. Moved quickly on foot

53. Monetary units

55. A place to crash

56. Many subconsciouses

57. Group of countries

58. About line of latitude

63. Female follower of Bacchus

65. A dentist can treat it

66. Dull brown fabrics

67. Int'l nonprofit

CLUES DOWN

1. Midway between northeast and east

2. Partner to cheese

3. One from Utah

4. A way to move

5. Playing cards

6. Baseball stat

7. Long river in western Asia

8. Grandmothers

9. Entertainment legend Sullivan

10. Steam bath room

11. One who kills

13. Food

15. Swiss river

17. Fleet

18. Taxi

21. Working class

23. More (Spanish)

24. High schoolers' test

27. Large heavily built goat antelope

29. Murdered in his bathtub

32. Tease good-naturedly

34. Morsel

35. Cause persistent resentment

36. A radioactive element

39. Perform in a play

40. Witty remark: Bon ___

43. A great place to kayak

44. Conclude by reasoning

46. In an unfavorable way

47. Complex of nerve tissues (abbr.)

49. Machine for making paper

51. Feline

54. Yugo's hatchback

59. Check

60. Press against lightly

61. Wind-pollinated plants

62. ___compoop

64. Commercial

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

It could be that you are very aware of things going on around you this week, Aries. Unfortunately, many of them will be out of your control. Still, keep an open mind.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, if you need to confront someone this week, do so tactfully. Remember the adage about catching more flies with honey. You'll find that tactic is handy.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, write down new goals, as it seems your emotions have changed over the past several days. This way you can channel your ambitions accordingly.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

It's not possible to transform the people you know with a magic wand or a twinkle of your nose, Capricorn. Let others be who they are and appreciate their individuality.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Relax and settle down for a few days, Taurus. Take some time to enjoy the people around you and try to travel to some new locales along the way. A little vacation can be helpful.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, this week could become a tad challenging as strong astrological energies are affecting people's emotions. Maintain your composure at all costs.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Your organizational skills are about to increase productivity tenfold this week, Virgo. Don't be afraid to take big chances and even grab the helm on a large project.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Don't be surprised if some relatively minor details cause a setback in the days ahead, Gemini. Some heightened focus might be in order. Try to zone in.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, this week you dare to go against the grain and make your voice heard. Embrace your self-confidence and don't hesitate to take on a leadership role.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Your presence will be remarkable this week, Sagittarius. You radiate confidence and energy for all to see, and the people around you could be counting on you for leadership.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

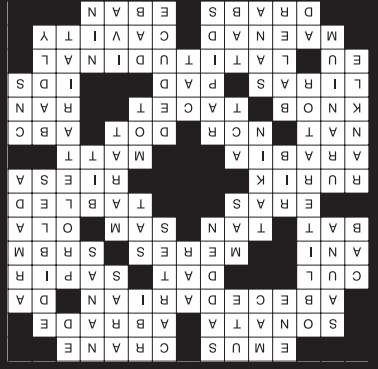
Aquarius, if you are feeling a bit neglected and unloved this week, ask your partner for some support. He or she will take the cue and the spark will reignite.

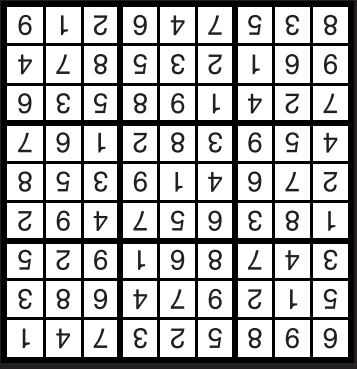
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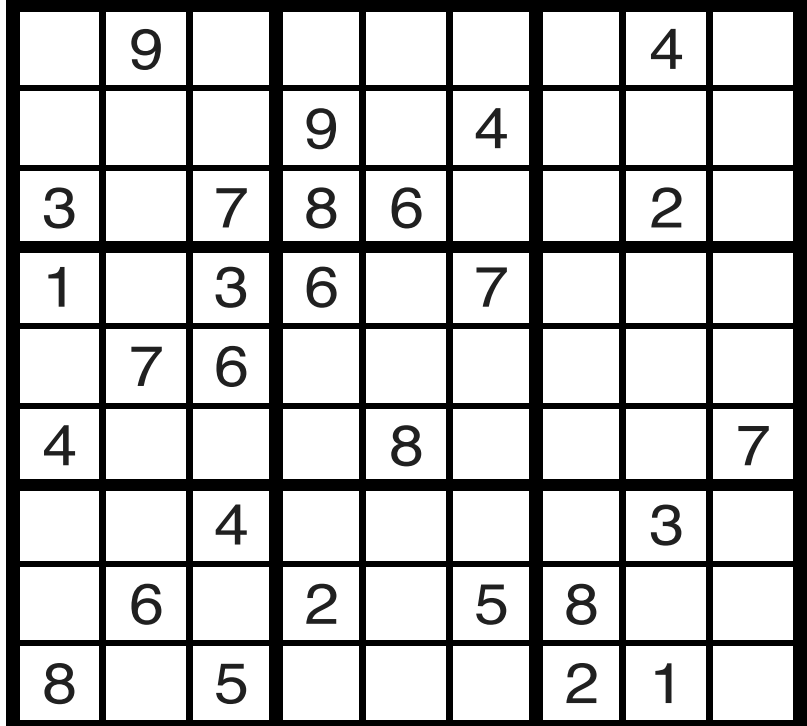
Feb 19/Mar 20

Some conflicts within the family have you serving as peacemaker, Pisces. Negotiate with others to resolve their differences.

answers







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OBITUARIES

William O. Chaffee, Sr.

Bill Chaffee 74, a former resident of Russell, Massachusetts, passed away on Jan. 24, 2018, with his wife by his side.

Born in Palmer to the late George E. and Alice M. Chaffee, Bill leaves his wife of 41 years Brenda Pease Chaffee, his son William O. Chaffee Jr., and Russell Chaffee, who predeceased him. He leaves behind five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Bill was the oldest of a family of eight and leaves behind three brothers and four sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

Bill enjoyed hunting with his brothers and getting



together with his brothers, sisters, and their families for picnics where there were always the big horseshoe matches. He was a master carpenter and, after his retirement, Bill spent many hours out in his second home “his shop.”

There will be a graveside Memorial Service held at the Center Cemetery on Sam Hill Road in Worthington, Massachusetts on Monday, June 28, at 11 a.m. with a Celebration of Life immediately following at the Worthington Rod and Gun Club for those who are able to attend.

Wendy J. Darling, 66

Wendy J Darling, 66, of Upperville, Virginia passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 25, 2021 in Fairfax Va.

She was born in February 24,1955 in Springfield Mass, the daughter of the late Charles Darling and Patricia Darling Montgomery, Massachusetts.

She grew up in Montgomery where her love of horses and animals began. She spent many hours riding the back roads and trails on her beloved horse Cracker Jack. She loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and gardening.

After graduating from Gateway Regional High School in 1973, she went on to Southern Seminary College in Buena Vista, Virginia, where she got her Associates of Science degree in Horse Management. After graduation she remained in Virginia where she



dedicated her life to horses, whether they were racehorses or fox hunters or backyard horses. She loved them all and was very gifted in the language of horses.

Wendy was a dedicated mother and grandmother and sister. Her family was very important to her. We will all miss her.

She is survived by daughter Jaime Dorrin and husband Andrew and four children, Christian, Jaxon, Alyssa, Grayce of Virginia; son Jeff Pierce and wife Samantha and three children, Sawyer, Paisley, Lincoln of West Virginia, daughter Jennifer Pierce of Virginia; and three siblings, brother Scott Darling and wife Mary of Montgomery; brother Todd Darling and wife Gail of New Hampshire; sister Tracey Darling and husband Andrew of New Hampshire.

Frank Feakes, 98

Frank Feakes, born in 1923 in York, Western Australia, died on April 30, 2021 at his family home in Worthington, Massachusetts at the age of 98.

Born and raised in Western Australia, Frank was a natural athlete and competed often in track and swimming as a young man, but it was his intellect that won him a scholarship to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and he emigrated to the U.S. in 1951, where he met his wonderful wife Marcia Lane Feakes. Together they embraced a life that was deeply connected to Worthington.



Active in both the Historical Society and the Worthington Library, Frank and Marcia were also early land conservationists and passionate gardeners. Frank helped preserve local historic graveyards and loved researching the early land history of Worthington and the Benjamin family who built their beloved family home in the 1700's. Frank's quirky style and insistence that much of the modern world is “twaddle” will be missed by all.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Worthington Library Scholarship Fund.

Ernest F. Lowinski, 95

Ernest F. Lowinski passed Feb. 6, 2021 shortly after his 95th birthday. He and his wife Karen will be laid to rest in Spring Grove Cemetery in Florence, Massachusetts on Saturday, May 15, at 10:30 a.m.

The only child born to Rose Alma (Emma) and Joseph Lowinski. He grew up in the Aldenville section of Chicopee and attended St. Joan of Arc school. He had a fierce love of country and joined the Merchant Marines in 1944. Ernie served on the Merchant Marine ship Serpent that hauled supplies used for the war effort back and forth from Connecticut to Virginia. He joined the Army in 1946, where he was trained as a diesel mechanic for the tanks. He was shipped to Okinawa, Japan and then assigned to South Korea with the 81st Tank division. The next year he fixed tanks that built up the South Korean Army later used in the Korean War. During his service in the South Pacific, he witnessed the devastation that the atomic bomb did to Hiroshima. After being honorably discharged, when war broke out in 1950, he was called back to serve in South Korea. He served for over a year at Fort Eustis, VA doing research and development on military landing crafts with Ford Motors.



Ernie spent most of his adult life right here on Bromley Rd. in Chester. He and his first wife Virginia raised three children — Ernest F. Jr, Virginia M. and Michael Brown, and Michael A. and Jeanne Lowinski. His second wife Karen L. passed on Nov.17, 2020, and she had three children — Glade and Clarke Hall both deceased, and Kim and Scott Soutra. Ernie was Dad to all six children.

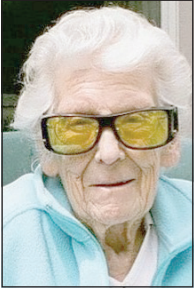
Ernie and Karen spent their later years in Holida, Florida. They were both very active in the Bible Baptist Church. Karen played the piano and organ and Ernie kept everyone smiling with his quick wit, generosity, and loving way. Ernie stayed active till the very end, mowing his grass and keeping his neighbors happy.

Ernie and Karen leave behind 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Ernie shared his loving parents with three cousins William X. Desmarais and Jeanne Desmarais Bancroft and Annette Fimbel LaMountain; his parents raised them as their own.

Ernie made sure there would be a fire department on Chester Hill for the residents; it's built on the Lowinski property. Till we meet again, “Keep Smiling.”

Lorna Swain Washburn

Lorna Swain Washburn died at home on April 30, 2021, surrounded by family. Lorna was born in Sydney, Australia on December 17, 1927 to Donald Swain and Elizabeth Swain. She attended school in Derry, New Hampshire and graduated from Nasson College in 1950. Lorna worked for many years in various teaching positions as a home economics teacher. She taught in schools in New Hampshire and then at the Hampden County Cooperative Extension Service.



She retired in 1985 after many years teaching at the Westfield Middle School. Her hobbies included rug hooking, gardening, and cooking. She was a great wife and parent, raising her family in Montgomery, MA and helping to create a beautiful home.

Lorna is survived by her husband of 61 years, Gene Washburn of Montgomery; son, Donald Washburn and his partner, Nancy Garstka of Montgomery; daughter Linda Stone, son-in-law, Matthew Stone of Paxton, Massachusetts and grandsons Russell Stone of

DEATH NOTICES

CHAFFEE, SR., WILLIAM O.
Died Jan. 24, 2018
Memorial Service Monday, June 28, 11 a.m.
Center Cemetery, Worthington

DARLING, WENDY J.
Died April 25, 2021

FEAKES, FRANK
Died April 30, 2021

LOWINSKI, ERNEST F.
Died Feb. 6, 2021

WASHBURN, LORNA SWAIN
Died April 30, 2021

Country Journal

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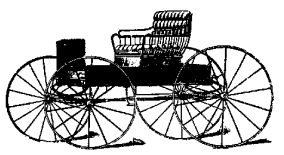
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